



20th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Celebration of the Word – Half Term Three, Week Three

This week marks the launch of the **Jubilee Year of Hope** in Catholic schools across the UK. It is a year dedicated to celebrating and nurturing hope. The Start of the Jubilee Year, something that only happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church, is marked by the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. These doors are sealed and only opened during Jubilee Year or on special occasions declared by the Pope. Each Jubilee has a different theme and this particular Jubilee is known as a "Year of Hope" as it invites all Catholics throughout the world to reflect on God's mercy and love, to seek reconciliation in all areas of life, and renew their commitment to faith. Millions of Pilgrims will pass through these doors at the Vatican throughout this year, as a symbolic gesture of stepping into a new life of grace and leaving behind sin. On Friday 24th January we will launch the Jubilee in school with an array of events, activities and the celebration of Mass to mark this special occasion. Please look out for images on our app throughout the day.

This week, our Gospel reading for the **Celebration of the Word is from John 2:1-11**. In this passage, we hear about the wedding at Cana, where Jesus performs His first miracle by turning water into wine at His mother Mary's request. This Gospel resonates deeply as we launch the Jubilee Year of Hope in school this week. It reminds us that, even in times of uncertainty or need, we are called to trust in God and to be signs of hope for others. Just as Jesus responded to the need at the wedding, we are invited to respond to the needs of those around us with faith, kindness, and generosity.

During this third week of the term, our focus is on the **Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Common Good**, which calls us to work together to create a society where everyone can thrive. Whilst we reflect on the Catholic Social Teaching principle of the Common Good, I am delighted to share an update from Rang Bulan, the village in Borneo, where our school donations from the **Borneo Appeal** have directly impacted 13 families in need. Through the generosity of parents, children and staff, we were able to provide vital resources, including materials for repairing temporary shelters, two 400-gallon water tanks, gas tanks, cooking equipment, and essential family relief packages. These packages contained bedding with mosquito nets, sanitary pads, nappies for young children, rice, noodles, biscuits, cooking oil, seasonings, and drinking water. Please see the Headteacher's weekly update for the full report and images of the community receiving these items.

Rory Hall, the director of Camps International, shared this message on behalf of the Rang Bulan community: *"There were a lot of tears of relief and gratitude when the team handed over the items. The items purchased were discussed at length with the village officials to make sure we gave them what they needed. We will continue to monitor these requirements, but hopefully, this is a little lift to help them get back on their feet again. Could you please pass our heartfelt thanks to the school and all associated with their kind donation. It really made a direct difference. Thank you so much for your efforts and kind donation – we are so proud to have the incredible Team Tombonuo (St James') travel with us."* Thank you for being part of this inspiring act of compassion.

This Friday, we will come together at the end of the day to pray the **Official Jubilee Year of Hope prayer**. By praying these words, we align ourselves as "*Pilgrims of Hope*". We encourage you to use this prayer at home



ST JAMES'

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

over the coming months as a way to reflect on the Jubilee theme of hope and to deepen your connection to God's presence in your life.

*Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.*

*May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.*

*May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever, Amen.*

This week, let us reflect on how we can live out Pope Francis' call to be "builders of hope" by spreading kindness, compassion, and encouragement to those around us in all areas of our lives. Whether through small acts like offering a listening ear, helping someone in need, or sharing a smile, we can bring light to others and reflect God's love in our daily lives.

As always, I welcome any feedback you may have. Please feel free to reach out to me at h.purkiss@stjamescheadle.uk.

Yours faithfully

Miss H Purkiss
Associate Assistant Headteacher

